

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00

PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ERDA-07

AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00

H-02 INT-05 NSC-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-05 STR-04 NEA-10

IO-10 ERDE-00 EA-09 AF-06 /148 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4018

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES BEFORE FRENCH
DIPLOMATIC PRESS ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 9, 1975

IN WIDE-RANGING QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING
LUNCH GIVEN BY FRENCH DIPLOMATIC PRESS ASSOCIATION,
FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TOUCHED ON SEVERAL
CURRENT TOPICS.

1. FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS: COMMENTING ON RECENT
PRESS ACCOUNTS DETAILING IMPROVED FRANCO-AMERICAN
RELATIONS, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID IT WAS ONLY NORMAL THAT
TWO NATIONS WITH OVER 200 YEARS OF COMMON HISTORY SHOULD
ENJOY CLOSE TIES. SAUVAGNARGUES EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE
AT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS BUT NOTED THAT CERTAIN DIFFEREN-
CES ON SPECIFICS REMAIN. SUCH DIFFERENCES NOTWITHSTAND-
ING, THE TWO NATIONS USUALLY ARRIVE AT SIMILAR CONCLU-
SIONS. PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERI-
ALS (PREPCON) WAS ONE EXAMPLE. SAUVAGNARGUES ATTRIBUTED
IMPROVED RELATIONS TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN "STYLE" AND ALSO
TO AN APPRECIATION BY THE US THAT FRANCE MAINTAINS CLEAR-
CUT POLICIES, I.E., THE US KNOWS WHERE FRANCE STANDS.

2. LEBANON: SAUVAGNARGUES CITED LEBANON AS A GOOD
EXAMPLE OF FRANCO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT.
BOTH NATIONS, HE SAID, WERE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE
POTENTIALLY "EXPLOSIVE" SITUATION AND AGREE THAT THIS
POSES A THREAT TO MIDDLE EASTERN STABILITY (HERE SAUVA-
GNARGUES CITED TALKS WHICH HE HAD HAD WITH HIS AMERICAN
COLLEAGUES IN NEW YORK AND PARIS.

3. CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM: QUESTIONED ON PRINCE SIHA-
NOUK'S APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING,
FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED THAT THE MEETING
WAS AT SIHANOUK'S REQUEST. "WE ARE NOT THE REQUESTING
PARTY (DEMANDEUR) IN THIS SITUATION." BUT, SAUVAGNAR-
GUES CONTINUED, FRANCE WISHES TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS
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WITH PHNOM-PENH IN THE FUTURE. IT WAS SAUVAGNARGUES'
FEELING THAT THE CAMBODIANS ARE NOT YET READY FOR SUCH
A STEP. ON FRENCH-SOUTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS,
SAUVAGNARGUES AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE WAS NOT A
"DEMANDEUR." FRANCE NEVERTHELESS WAS "ANXIOUS AND READY
TO ESTABLISH IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH SAIGON."

4. GISCARD'S TRIP TO MOSCOW: COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT

GISCARD'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID
THAT DETENTE BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE USSR WAS HEALTHY.
HE CITED ENERGY, AERONAUTICS AND TOURISM AS EXAMPLES.
PROBLEMS REMAIN IN TERMS OF BASKET III, HE SAID, BUT
PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4019

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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5. FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY: SAUVAGNARGUES CONFIRMED THAT A FRENCH "OMNI-DIRECTIONAL" (TOUT AZIMUT) DEFENSE POLICY WAS DEAD. SUCH A POLICY, HE MAINTAINED, WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF GENERAL DE GAULLE. HE CITED AGREEMENTS FOR INCREASED FRANCO-NATO COOPERATION MADE DURING POMPIDOU'S PRESIDENCY, AND QUOTED HIS PREDECESSOR, MICHEL JOBERT, IN SAYING THAT "WE HAVE A GOOD ALLIANCE. LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY." "WE REMAIN A GOOD ALLY", SAUVAGNARGUES ADDED.

6. PREPCON: IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON UPCOMING PREPCON, SAUVAGNARGUES ANTICIPATED NO IMMEDIATE RESULTS FROM SESSION. THIS WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AS MEETING WAS MEANT TO BE PREPARATORY IN NATURE. MOREOVER, SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED, DIRECT FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD CEASE WHEN THE DELEGATES HAD ACTUALLY GATHERED. NEVERTHELESS, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID, FRANCE COULD TAKE PRIDE IN HAVING CALLED THE CONFERENCE AND IN HAVING NURTURED IT OVER PITFALLS OF RECENT MONTHS.

7. SAUVAGNARGUES CHARACTERIZED BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAHAN'S DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE SEAT AT THE PREPCON AS "NOT SURPRISING" IN VIEW OF CALLAHAN'S COMMENTS IN NEW YORK AND GIVEN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, THE PREPCON IS NOT A EUROPEAN EVENT BUT, RATHER, CONCERNS THE FUTURE OF WORLD ECONOMIC RELATIONS. SAUVAGNARGUES FELT IT REGRETTABLE THAT BRITAIN DID NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE AT THIS JUNCTURE BUT MAINTAINED THAT NO NATION COULD STOP THE PROCESS OF NORTH-SOUTH CONSULTATIONS. CONCLUDING, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THAT BRITISH DESIRE FOR A SEPARATE SEAT WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM BUT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY DRAMATIZED.

8. FRANCO-SPANISH RELATIONS. DISCUSSING FRANCO-SPANISH

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RELATIONS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO MADRID WOULD RETURN TO THAT CITY IN "SEVERAL DAYS". SAUVAGNARGUES HAD STRONG WORDS FOR THE EC COMMISSION IN TERMS OF ITS ROLE IN THE SPANISH AFFAIR. NO ONE DISPUTES THE COMMISSION'S RIGHT TO AN INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT BUT IT COULD NOT PRESUME TO DETERMINE FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY. PARIS WILL MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH MADRID. BLANKET CONDEMNATIONS OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE FOR THE FAULTS OF A FEW SHOULD BE AVOIDED, AND IN ANY EVENT THE PRESENCE OF AN AMBASSADOR DOES NOT SIGNIFY APPROVAL OF THE POLICIES OF THE NATION TO WHICH HE IS ACCREDITED. CONCLUDING, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THAT FRANCE HAD HAD TO EXPRESS ITS INDIGNATION VIS-A-VIS SPANISH SUMMARY TRIALS BUT THAT PARIS WOULD CONTINUE, NEVERTHELESS, TO WORK FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPAIN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS.

9. CLAUSTRE AFFAIR: DISCUSSING THE CLAUSTRE AFFAIR, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD GONE TO THE "LIMITS OF THE POSSIBLE" IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION. FRANCE HAD FINALLY DRAWN THE LINE WHEN IT CAME TO PROVIDING ARMS TO A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT RELATIONS WITH CHAD WOULD IMPROVE, DESPITE EVACUATION OF FRENCH TROOPS NOW UNDER WAY.
RUSH

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